

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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COURIER

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~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

LINCOLN

JUN 8 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

ESSENCE Operational Report

Miscellaneous Background Data for CALLIGERIS

1. The following paragraphs contain miscellaneous background data reported by ESSENCE to Eliot P. RAZMARA on 2 June 1954.

2. Just prior to the SEMANTIC compromise (GUAT 705) a group member made a trip through eastern WSBURNT and submitted the following report to ESSENCE:

a) In Sanarate, Jorge ESTEVEZ, Virgilio CHAVARRIA and Miguel CASTRO stated that they have "sufficient" men ready for any action against the government.

b) In Progreso, Colonel Sinforoso ALDANA and Colonel Daniel ORELLANA (the latter from Los Chahuities) stated that they have "many" men in the area who are also ready for action against the government.

c) David COLINDRES and Adelina ROMERO reported that the Sansare area is solidly against the government. They also said that the clandestine radio is clearly heard thereabouts.

d) People in the Jalapa area are also solidly anti-government according to Colonel Francisco GUERRA and Daniel BONILLA (the latter a member of the city council). There again they are waiting for action.

e) Colonel Celestino VASQUEZ reported that the government forces in Jutiapa are very alert and vigilant. Policemen armed with pistols and machine guns were observed riding the trains.

f) Everywhere in the east the source claims to have noted an increased hopelessness among pro-government and communist forces. They reportedly felt (at that time) that the situation was unfavorable for them and getting worse.

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g) Source also observed that many of the government employees with whom he talked indicated that they are merely trying to make a living, that they are not in fact government partisans, that they too will fight against the government when the time comes. (In this connection, ESSENCE suggested that it would be a good idea for the clandestine radio to play up this situation, promising anti-communist government employees on the lower levels that they would not be removed from office after the revolution, etc.)

3. A second group member recently visited Quezaltenango where he obtained the attached list of reported communists and pro-communists in that area. The station cannot confirm or deny the accuracy of the list, but it may be useful to SHERWOOD in the preparation of programs aimed at small-time provincial communists and sympathizers. Source also submitted a copy of the minutes of a recent anti-communist meeting at San Cristobal Totonicapan. The minutes include a list of anti-communists at that place which is submitted as a matter of possible interest.

4. An unconfirmed report from Essence-1 states that Maria Trinidad CRUZ, currently reported to be a cook in the home of CALLIGERIS in WSHOOPS, is a government agent. This report also states that Maria Trinidad CRUZ was married to Oscar LUNA, the anti-communist who recently drowned in Lake Amatitlan under questionable circumstances, but was also the mistress of the policeman (unidentified) who is said to have killed LUNA and made his death appear an accidental drowning. (Comment: ESSENCE himself doubts the accuracy of the charge that Trinidad CRUZ is a government agent, but he suggests that she be carefully investigated).

5. Following the SEMANTIC compromise ESSENCE-1 declared that many of his contacts were depressed by what appeared to be a major set-back in opposition plans to overthrow the government. This fact and the long promised action that has failed to materialize is making it extremely difficult to secure active collaborators according to ESSENCE-1.

6. To illustrate the current state of nervous tension, ESSENCE-1 declared that many government functionaries are sending their wives and children abroad in anticipation of serious violence in the near future. ESSENCE-1 also submitted an unconfirmed report that President ARBENZ has ordered the liquidation of the Salamá prisoners at the first sign of hostilities.

George L. Tranger

Attachment: list of communists and pro-commies.

7 June 1954

GLT/sgl

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